1823

Quentin Durward = June

Dear Friend

The Lord forgive the delinquencies of the post master on the great day when he shall be called upon to give an acct. of his Postmastership - I can not "presume to ~~suppose~~ say be the date of this letter - yours is dated 9th June & I take it for granted that this letter of yours could never have taken in the remaining days of the same month in reaching this remote province - Ergo You shall read this sheet - ~~must have been a tryin~~ moment that which beheld you all assembled in the presence of the Almighty Sachs to receive your last ~~sweet~~ "allocation" the August appointments of next August - But Ah! what room is here for ~~moralistic~~ speculation, when my classmates were listening to the award of their 'good works' where was Scripture how true that those shall be taken & the others left - but querulousness is not beseeming - So then a long farewell to College Commencement - Othelo's occupation's gone - The ~~pursuum~~ pursuum salieus of my collegiate course has suddenly almost at the moment of ~~death~~ ceased its pulsations - Those were halcyon moments - There in college as my good old chum ~~was~~ wont to say I was happy as I am in the bosom of my family - In the midst of the serene pleasures of social luxury & social virtue occasionally mingling with the noisy throng of boisterous dissipation with many allurements to sin, I many incitements to ~~sin~~ these can never banish from my soul college recollections - I often think of the Dr. the Colonel the Capt. & Old Dan - the last to all I mention Grimshaw

yet not less frequently or with less pleasure — In your
just curses how heartily I unite — when you feel in the sacra-
mental state of mind read over the oriental, catholic,
maledictions of Tristram Shandy transcribed from
Ennulphus translated by our friend Sterne with so
much apparent feeling — [redacted] There is a minuteness
& particularity in this latter which tho' it allows no corner or
part of the unfortunate Cursee to escape or elude the
withering of its deep searching anathema's yet in
your malediction there is a laconic all mightiness
in which leaves a doubt in my mind by which bolt
I would prefer Damnation — Chum, who has as
much of the "milk of human kindness" in him as my
Uncle Toby had would no doubt exclaim with the
same "I could not have the heart to curse the Devil
himself so bitterly" I shall say nothing about appoint-
ments except that as you are all pleased ~~with~~ or
pretend to be pleased with them so I suppose I must
be or pretend to be pleased with my Disappointment
You will no doubt excuse this play upon words when
you reflect that it is at my own expence — Please
to make my most militarious compliments to
Colon[el] Habbell. a letter from Fred would be an
attention very gratifying to me. Pray have you
received Byrons last Satire which I enclosed in
paper transmitted you by mail — Scot's last
novel Quentin Durward came out 2 days ago
I have just commenced it, I have no means of deci-
ding it or would — Lord Byron has joined the army of
the Greeks — Oh what a man is here my countrymen!

Let me know in your next whether you would like me to send it to you it can not cost more than a dollar or so with the covers off - I must request you to reserve L. Empriere Biographical Dictionary - Now perhaps you may feel enough interest in me to know what I am about. I am matriculated into the College of Jurisprudence my name is entered into John Sargeants Office as a Student of Law with an "absolvitur ex officio ad volun tatem" which the Dept would render - "a furlough from duty at discretion" I am to spend this indulgence in the acquisition of the German - French & Italian Spanish - Now it occurs to me mention to the D that Guild owes me $2 50 for straw hat - he was to pay when he returned from Springs - What say our honest friends in College about our mysterious disappearance? "No Scandal about Queen Elizabeth I hope"? How much does the million, as Ann Yearsley would say 'know of this dark transaction? How is David Farshan? of the Tower of Wolfs Crag - for his lairds destitute of civil & comfortable police as that county towns - yet both the tower & Davids room were places of interest to me, else I never would have read of the one a second time, nor have visited the other one - hundred - It is just three O'clock when the "Dinner Bell that Toesin of the Soul" rings & alarums "Swinging slow with sullen roar"

Pray write me soon & more frequently & longer Tell Chum to write for "auld lang syne" Yrs. E.M.

I must add that some of my old acquaintancy are going partake dinner with you may assure yourself that as soon after dinner as the ladies withdraw We will have a most generous carouse We have just returned from the Academy of Fine Arts the annual exhibition which attracts an immense deal of company If you were an amateur or a Connoisseur I would I should arboresce into upon the the airs of Guido - Correggiescity of Correggio - the grand contour of Angelo - the colouring of Titian &c &c but I hate canting as much as ever Primsbee or Sterne did - I yielded up the reins of my imagination into the Painter pallet & paws. & was pleased - I knew not why & cared not wherefore" — & now I bethink me I have a dispute in the Society & I nominate you "in loco absentis" but upon rebethinking I believe you dont belong to the same division well let it pas verbum emissum et irrevocabile" - I regret that you were not more explicit with regard to my affairs, "the settling of the estate" as you are pleased to term it - I am just thinking at this moment that if this letter miscarries I will — What? will you? well I swear I hardly know my self. But this I know that whether it miscarries or not, as the Irishman says I beg you will immediately let me know - I have written two sides since the first Dinner bell rung & now God bless you for a few moments I shall return drunk or sober to fill up this sheet tho God knows there but little space left between the surface & the brim

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